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the world

poverty, and a desire or opportunity not known to exercise their gifts and achieve their potential in ways that honor God and advance His Kingdom.

It is crucial that mission efforts be re-prioritized and re-directed toward the 4/14 age group worldwide. This requires that we become acutely aware of what is taking place in their lives. We must also endeavor to understand their nature and the essential means to nurture them. Only with this kind of informed awareness will we be able to reach them, shape them, and raise them up to transform the world.

To meet this challenge we must comprehend the needs, nature and potential of children and youth in the 4/14 Window. We must also recognize the very real

is a process and is not fully realized until Jesus comes again. We are co-laborers with Christ, under His headship, collaborating with Him in His transformational mission to raise up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world.

May God renew our minds through His Word and the vision presented in this brief introduction. May we be God's change agents to transform the world for the glory of Christ. And, by God's grace, may the world as we know it be transformed.

Luis Bush
Luis Bush

the nations with the most 4-to-14ers is revealing. India, with almost 20% fewer people than China, has over 30% more children and youth. This is largely due to China's controversial "one child" policy. Nigeria and Indonesia, with half the population of the U.S., actually have more children and young teens in absolute numbers. In the U.S., 25% of the nearly 42 million school-age children are Hispanic—though Hispanics comprise only 15% of the general population. In Africa and in places such as Gaza, Afghanistan and Pakistan, 40 to 50% of the population is under age 15.

Characteristics of the 4/14 Window

From a missions standpoint, our interest in the 4 to 14 age group is not only because they are the most *receptive*, but also because they are often the most *effective* agents for mission. Of course, Jesus



with a holistic approach. In raising up the 4/14 generation for transformational impact, we must address their physical needs, their intellectual needs, and all the relational, social and spiritual dimensions of their lives. **We must embrace the whole person**, endeavoring to see 4/14ers as God sees

them. In relating to those who live in impoverished conditions we must look beyond the lack of assets and advantages and see the individual. And we must recognize the cyclical, negative forces at work—the disempowering systems that result in ongoing or even intensified poverty.

1. The Spiritual Challenge

George Barna's research verifies that a person's life-long behaviors and beliefs are generally developed during childhood and early ado-

nized against any disease

Health interventions during childhood can prevent damage that is virtually impossible to repair later in life. Addressing the physical and emotional health issues of the young can result in significant advances in lifelong well-being and personal development. Working to improve the health of children not only provides them a more promising future, it is also an invaluable opportunity to minister to their families and communities. In fact, strategic efforts to improve children's health can lead to the stability of an entire nation.

4. The Economic Challenge

The physical health needs of children and youth are closely related to the broader problems of poverty. The stag-



Where children and young people are given a significant challenge intentionally by wise adults or "accidentally" through necessity or disaster or obligation, they usually readily adapt to such demands.

7. The Ministry Challenge

The ministry challenge is about encouraging and equipping the children and youth of the 4/14 Window to use their gifts and potential as agents in transforming the world. They represent an enormous untapped pool of influencers with sensitivity

to the voice of God and willingness to do His bidding. God can and does use children and young people—their prayers, their insights, their hands and their feet—in changing the hearts of mankind.